THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The Draft Ninth Five Year (1997—2002), approved at internal meetings of the Planning Commission was released on March 1, 1998 by the then Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The Government decided to review this Draft so as to suitably reflect the altered priorities, as enunciated in the National Agenda for Governance. Detailed action plans on the above guidelines have been prepared and suitably incorporated into the existing Draft. The new Draft Ninth Five Year Plan has been discussed at the meetings of the internal Planning Commission and Full Planning Commission. The revised document is to be submitted through due process for consideration and approval of National Development Council.

(d) It is proposed to bring in functional changes in the working of the Planning Commission in the context of implementation of the Economic Reforms so that the Commission could concentrate more on new emerging areas/trends.

GDP growth rate

1376. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission at its recently held meeting in New Delhi has revised the GDP growth for Ninth Plan downwards to 6.5 per cent as against the 7 per cent GDP growth initially projected by the Commission as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 11th November, 1998;

(b) whether Government have also revised all the other Plan targets in tune with the downward revision in the GDP projections; and

(c) if so, details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating targeted economic growth rates, industrial and agricultural projects, export projections and consequential (fiscal) deficit etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The Draft Ninth Five Year Plan, 1997—2002, approved at internal meetings of the Planning Commission was released on March 1, 1998 by the then Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The Government has decided to review this Draft so as to suitably reflect the altered priorities, as enunciated in the National Agenda for Governance. Detailed action plans on the above guidelines have been prepared and suitably incorporated into the existing Draft. The new Draft Ninth Fivey Year Plan has been discussed at the meetings of the internal Planning Commission and Full Planning Commission. The revised document is to be submitted through due process for consideration and approval of National Development Council. The Planning Commission, in its last meeting in November, 1998, decided to recommend to the National Development Council a reduction in the target rate of growth of GDP from 7.0 per cent per annum to 6.5 per cent per annum average over the five years of the Ninth Plan. This has been done to take into account the actual realisation of 5.1% growth during 1997-98 (i.e., the first year of the Ninth Plan) and expected realisation of about 6% growth during 1998-99 (i.e., the second year of the Plan). Implicit in this target is more than 7% of average growth during the remaining three years of the Plan.

Revision of guidelines on MPLADS

1377. SHRI RAHAS BIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the guidelines of MPLADS have been revised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revised guidelines have been sent to the States/Union Territories;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) the various steps taken by Government for effective and speedy implementation of MPLADS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) The guidelines on MPLAD Scheme were revised on 15.2.1997, a copy of which was issued to the District Collectors in all the States/Union Territories on 15.2.1997. A copy of the revised guidelines has also been issued to all the Hon'ble Members of Parliament.

(e) For effective and speedy implementation of works under MPLAD Scheme, the revised guidelines stipulate that each State Government/UT administration has to designate one Nodal Department for physical monitoring through field inspection and co-ordination with the Department of Programme Implementation. The revised guidelines also contain provisions for field inspection by the Heads of District and also the officers of the implementing agencies.

Social safety nets

1378. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Nobel Laureate, Prof. Amartya Sen has recently called for social safety nets to profit from globalization and to protect the vulnerable competition;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Prof. Sen has blamed India for neglecting health and land reforms; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and whether Government propose to review the globalization policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The views of Prof. Amartya Sen, who won the Nobel Prize for Economics this year, appeared in a news report with the title "Social safety nets needed for globalisation benefit: Amartya Sen" datelined United Nations, October 15, 1998 and published in the News Paper Business Line in its issue dated October 16, 1998. Similar news reports containing the views of Prof. Sen on various social and economic development issues also appeared in some other national/international newspapers on 15th October, 1998 and on a few occassions afterwards. These news reports quoted Prof. Sen saying that he was not opposed to globalization. He took the view that globalization was a major force for good and if adequately backed by national policies, it could be a major force of prosperity in the world. He further said that problems arose when economic integration created highly competitive situation in societies which were not ready to face such competitive situation. According to Prof. Sen, India was such a society trying to globalize its economy before readying itself to compete with the rest of the world. According to Prof. Sen, the reasons for India's unpreparedness was its long neglect of education, health care and land reforms. Under the circumstances, Prof. Sen has called for social safety nets for those Indians who are illiterate, ill-educated, ill-fed and unhealthy. The Government respects Prof. Sen's views. However, the Government is of the opinion that the